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Sharks host Olympians

Page 8



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23 Deaths

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Look on Page 12 for
Town of Strathmore Municipal Notices

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Lebrary goes fee free

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Municipal Library is eliminating membership card fees and overdue fines following a funding contribution from the Town of Strathmore.

Beginning this year, library users will no longer have to pay for membership, nor will they be penalized for late returns on borrowed items.

Director of Library Services Rachel Dick Hughes said the team is excited about the move, as fees and overdue fines have long-since been a deterrent to library use.

“It was a small amount of our budget, but because we’re a not for profit and it’s been a hard couple of years, we’ve lost a lot of income on things like room rentals,” said Dick Hughes.

“The extra funding from the Town of Strathmore was critical to making this happen. It was in addition to our usual per capita funding.”

The elimination of fees also aims to encourage those, for whom that may have been a barrier, to make use of the library services and encourage literacy for the entire community.

According to Dick Hughes, the library’s board has been working towards the goal for a while now and is glad to see that the Town was on board to make it happen.

“The board approached council and let them know that, for this amount, we could eliminate fees and explained why that’s important in terms of accessibility for everyone in the community,” explained Dick Hughes. “We find overdue fines really affect certain people more than others. If you can afford it, it’s almost like a feel-good thing – you come to pay your fines and it’s your donation to the library and everybody’s happy.”

By 2021, only one per cent of the library’s budget was reliant upon overdue fines and another three per cent came from library cards.

Continued on Page 2



New Year, No Fees!

Strathmore Municipal Library Staff are excited to announce that the facility now has membership fees for free and is overdue fine free, following an additional contribution from the Town of Strathmore of \$21,000 to cover the difference.

John Watson Photo

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Library shifting to free membership and no late return fines

Continued from Page 1

The extra contribution from the Town of Strathmore was in the amount of \$21,000 for 2022 to cover the loss of revenue associated with the elimination of fees.

Dick Hughes also clarified the association between the penalty of late fees and users returning borrowed items is a common misconception.

"A lot of libraries have gone fine free and the vast majority find there's no real difference in the return rates on their items," she explained. "Library users are generally really dili-

gent, responsible people who sometimes make mistakes, just like anyone, and we want to make sure they're not punished unduly for no really good reason for losing a book."

One of the hopes behind the move is to potentially remedy some negative experiences users may have had with the library and encourage them to continue coming back to utilize the facility.

Regularly scheduled and budgeted library programming will remain unaffected by the changes.

Users can register for their free library cards either in person or online.

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2021 was weird, but Fule is excited and optimistic for 2022

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Town of Strathmore Mayor, Pat Fule is looking forward to a productive year ahead as 2021 came to a close.

"It's been a weird year, but there are really good signs that we can be optimistic about," said Fule.

"The economy is improving – I know inflation has been a hard thing, we've seen a lot of increases in costs, like gas and groceries ... but the economy is definitely improving, oil and gas prices have improved."

Fule added he was particularly pleased to note that over the course of 2021, over 53 home starts had been completed in Strathmore, which nearly tripled the meager 18 which were seen in town over the previous year.

This, he said, boded well for many, as people may be opting more and more to work from home as opposed to going back into the office on a daily basis.

Fule also commended the Chamber of Commerce for their promotion and aid of local businesses in the town and surrounding community, as well as helping to stage events in the downtown area.

"I know that the economy is improving as far as people being able to spend money and do things a little more than the past, and that's a testament that we're coming through the virus," he said.

Regarding major local developments, first on the list to mind was the construction of the solar farm, which the town was not required to invest in and will benefit from not only in energy, but also lease payments and property taxes.

"It's been a really good thing for the town. I know some people worry about the long-term implications of the lifespan of these panels, but I look to the future and I'm sure there's going to be a lot of innovative ways to deal with them on a much later basis," said Fule. "It's something where the Town of Strathmore never invested anything, all we did was provide the land to the business and then we'll be receiving lease payments as well as property taxes."

With respect to the ongoing topic of vaccinations amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Fule cautioned residents to be wary of the Omicron variant that is affecting the current wave but commended those residents who opted in for keeping up to date with their vaccinations.

"I think people realize that the way to stop (COVID-19) from mutating is lit-

erally to be vaccinated ... and that's (also) what I think frustrates people. They think the vaccines were supposed to be the be-all-and-end-all and they'd have 100 per cent efficacy," said Fule. "They don't work that way. They give you a lot of protection and they lessen your chances of getting hospitalized or having a really serious case of the virus, but it's not 100 per cent effective."

Unlike what was seen in 2021, the Town of Strathmore is implementing a mild tax increase this year, as the municipality must keep pace with continually rising costs to operate and maintain the town.

He specifically spoke to the rising costs of machinery, services, labour, asphalt for paving and other amenities that keep the town functioning.

"We kept (the property tax increase) at zero for 2021 because we knew that a lot of people were struggling with 2020's COVID-19 situation. A lot of people had to stay home from work, or there were layoffs, or some businesses closed," he said. "We thought in 2021, we had to do something to try to cushion the economic blow to our residents ... unfortunately, a zero per cent tax situation is not a manageable one for any town to do."

Among immediate council discussions, the topic of potentially seeing the town become the City of Strathmore was introduced shortly before council broke for the holiday.

For the time being, council has accepted the initial report for information and has yet to return with more details or further reports on the potential to adopt the municipal status

update.

"Some people like the small town atmosphere and title of 'Town of Strathmore,' versus city. I know Okotoks has a much bigger population than Strathmore and they've chosen to stay with the title of Town of Okotoks because they want to try to keep that smaller town vibe and feeling and atmosphere," said Fule. "I'm keeping an open mind myself. If it looks like it makes a lot of sense financially, if it would help our business and real estate community, I would definitely consider it."

Overall, Fule is excited to get started in the new year and suggested the town has much in store to look forward to over the year ahead.



Leela Aheer, MLA

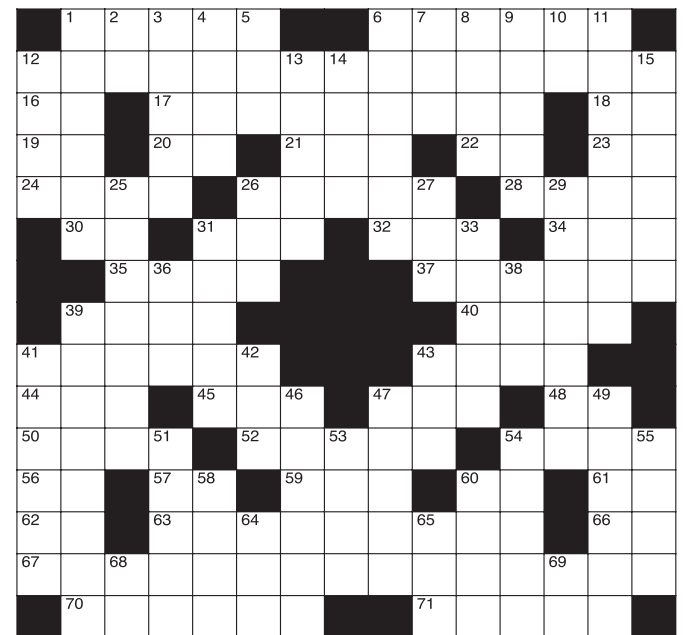
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CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Struck firmly | 40. Peculation |
| 6. Shirt part | 41. Netted |
| 12. Nevertheless | 43. It shows you paid (abbr.) |
| 16. Article | 44. Payroll firm |
| 17. Adornment | 45. Antidiuretic hormone |
| 18. Educator's helper | 47. Japanese classical theater |
| 19. Healthcare pro | 48. The first two |
| 20. Atomic number 28 | 50. Ancient burial chamber |
| 21. Extinct flightless bird | 52. Type of card |
| 22. Mystic syllable | 54. Expression of sorrow or pity |
| 23. College sports decision maker (abbr.) | 56. Hectoliter |
| 24. Edible mushrooms | 57. Morning |
| 26. Venerable English monk | 59. NYC subway dweller |
| 28. Surrounded by | 60. Law enforcement |
| 30. Forming fractional numbers from 4 onwards | 61. Sodium |
| 31. Eastern France river | 62. Elevated subway |
| 32. Short cry or yelp | 63. Facility where wild animals are kept |
| 34. Brew | 66. Integrated circuit |
| 35. Ornamental box | 67. Seaman's tool |
| 37. In a way, surfaced | 70. Drink to |
| 39. Attired | 71. Small group |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Poem | 33. A way to make dry |
| 2. Everest is one (abbr.) | 36. One's grandmother |
| 3. Olympic legend Jesse | 38. Vocal style |
| 4. Portable tent | 39. Pronunciation mark |
| 5. When you hope to get there | 41. American Indian chief or leader |
| 6. Unwavering | 42. Insecticide |
| 7. Back muscle | 43. Go bad |
| 8. Within | 46. Capital of Zimbabwe |
| 9. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues | 47. Polish river |
| 10. Six | 49. Cast out |
| 11. Involved as a necessary part | 51. People of India and Sri Lanka |
| 12. 2002 Liotta, Patric film | 53. Cleaning fabrics |
| 13. Living thing | 54. Very skilled |
| 14. Type of gin | 55. Pouches |
| 15. Moved around in pursuit of fun | 58. Restaurant must-have |
| 25. Makes light bulbs | 60. Native Americans from Arizona |
| 26. Story of one's life | 64. Remaining after all deductions |
| 27. Small island in a river | 65. Fleece |
| 29. A type of bliss | 68. Dorm official |
| 31. Genus of large herons | 69. It cools your home |

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Scams are designed to either steal your money, or steal your identity in order to steal your money later. Scammers have all kinds of techniques to collect personally identifiable information (PII). Once they have it, they can effectively become you, using your identity to open accounts, file taxes, or obtain medical coverage.

How the identity theft scams work:

How do people steal your identity? With enough personal information, a scammer can pretend to be you and commit a wide range of crimes. They are capable of making false applications for loans and credit cards, withdrawing money from your bank account, or obtaining services in your name. They can also sell your information to others on the internet.

Tips to spot this type of scam:

Look for unexplained withdrawals, charges, and accounts. Review your bank account and credit card statements regularly. Look for unfamiliar charges, accounts, or withdrawals. Know when your bills are due; one tip-off for identity theft is when you stop receiving certain bills. This can happen because scammers have changed the address associated with your bank account or credit card.

Check your credit reports regularly for unauthorized inquiries and accounts. In Canada, the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada provides information on requesting a free credit report.

Protect Yourself Against This Scam:

Be careful with your personal information. Treat your personal information like the valuable commodity it is. Make sure you shred any documents that have your bank account information, Social Insurance Number, or other personal information.

Secure personal documents at home. If you have roommates, employ outside help or have contractors in your home, make sure personal documents are in a safe place – preferably under lock and key – and not lying out in plain sight.

Be alert to phishing attempts. Scammers are sophisticated and their phishing attempts may come via email, text, social media message, even phone calls. Be suspicious of any unsolicited communication asking you for personal information.

Protect Yourself Against Hackers:

- Use strong passwords or passphrases. Avoid using your birth date, child's name or birth date, mother's maiden name, the last four digits of your Social Insurance Number, or really obvious ones like "123456" or "password."
- Change your passwords frequently.
- Use different passwords for each online account or website.
- Be careful about the types of information you share online, especially if it is information that could be used to get past security questions on your accounts (things like your first car, first pet's name, city where you were born).
- Shred outdated documents with personal information. While you should keep your tax returns forever, you should shred supporting documents for your tax returns after seven years.
- Visit BBB.org for more information.

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Strathmore RCMP emphasizing community engagement: Wielgosz says

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism initiative Reporter

With the calendar year of 2021 having drawn to a close, Strathmore RCMP detachment commander Mark Wielgosz is thinking about how to improve police services and community engagement.

Though it's always something the detachment is actively considering, Wielgosz said community engagement and visibility remain high priorities to the detachment.

"Community engagement is big for us, we like to meet with people where they are in the community and that's a big proponent of community policing, where our members are interacting with the community," said Wielgosz. "Overall, I can say with our crime reduction measures with property crimes and road safety, our numbers are down from last year, so that's certainly a positive."

Though, he added, there have been fluctuations in the past few months, overall, the numbers are looking good and like an overall improvement. It's a trend he hopes to see continue.

For residents who are curious, Wielgosz regularly posts the detachment's crime statistics on the Town of Strathmore website.

The Strathmore RCMP is also employing a community liaison program in which select community groups have officers assigned to them in order to increase engagement and feedback with the community.

"It's also to have that contact person should there be a need to contact the police or even just simply a matter of seeking out further information for community safety type initiatives," said Wielgosz.

Alongside community engagement, crime prevention programs are consistently under development. One such example is the Habitual Offender Management Program, where offenders are selected based on the volumes of crimes they commit, seriousness of crimes they committed and the impact they are to the community.

"What that is designed to do is to put our focus on those who are committing the majority of crimes in our area, mainly to ensure that they are abiding by court order conditions, if any," said Wielgosz.

"And, (we) intend to ensure that they are aware, that we are aware of their presence within the community."

The overall goal being for previous offenders to remain law-abiding residents. Wielgosz added the detachment also has a security scan program which is soon to see implementation to aid in license plate theft reduction.

"It is a bit of a problem in our area and our general region where offenders will steal license plates off a vehicle similar to ones that they're operating, which is a stolen vehicle, to remain undetected," explained Wielgosz.

"This is a way we can protect residents from being victims of crime with having their license plate stolen."

If any residents wish to provide input or their thoughts about their local police services, the Strathmore detachment maintains an ongoing survey online for folks to make their thoughts and opinions known.

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Bow River Riding MP Martin Shields talks year in review

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism initiative Reporter

With 2021 drawing to a close, Bow River MP Martin Shields said it was a busy and interesting year.

For parliament, he specified, the House of Commons adopted a sort of hybridized system now that in-person meetings were allowed to resume, albeit with a smaller in-house capacity and the remainder of MP's attending meetings from home.

"Back in 2020 in March, when the first COVID-19 stories (started appearing) ... we said 'okay, we're going to go to a hybrid Parliament here and we'll all be back in a month or so,'" said Shields.

"For 2021, the hybrid Parliament carried on, which was a very, very different scenario. We rotated to comply with Ontario's guidelines for how many people could be there at a time, so we spent a lot of time on screens trying to do government business, House of Commons, Committees, etc. Which only works to a certain point."

2021 also saw a federal election once again pass through, with the Conservative Party of Canada once again being voted to represent Canadians as the Official Opposition. Shields himself was re-elected into his seat.

"That's a huge honour in the sense that there's only 338 people who get elected in an election and to be one of those 338 and being elected by constituents in the Bow River Riding, it's a real privilege," said Shields. "The election campaign was shorter than the last one, but yet it was very busy – knocking on doors, doing forums, those kinds of things."

Additionally, Shields was appointed as Deputy Shadow Minister for Indig-

enous Services – an opportunity he acknowledged as an honour to add to his portfolio, particularly as the second-largest Indigenous reserve in the country is located within the riding he represents.

"I've worked with people from (Siksika) as constituents, but here, I get to officially do it as a specific role. Following that, I'm also appointed to the Indigenous Committee, which we will be looking at studies when we get back after Christmas," said Shields.



Among Shields' priorities is to continue the development of infrastructure and high-speed internet in his constituency, so that it may better reach and service rural Albertans.

He added a very small margin of high-speed internet which urban centers enjoy reaches Indigenous populations, including the Siksika Nation. It's some-

thing he wants to see addressed and remedied.

"You've probably heard a lot about broadband and high-speed internet. The beast is specific to both the constituents here because we've been working on this for years. The Indigenous high-speed internet of what we call 50-10, in Alberta it's only 19 per cent of Indigenous have that level and rural Alberta only 33 per cent," explained Shields.

"I'm tying it together in the sense of wanting to look at it as an Indigenous issue, but also rural ... we need it and have for a long time. Now, there's more awareness and more money on the table being committed by federal and provincial (governments)."

Shields concluded he looks forward to resuming discussions in Parliament and working to continue serving his constituents.



Hosting Olympians

The Strathmore Sliver Sharks swim team host Olympic swimmers Yuri Kisil and Kayla Sanchez on Dec. 29, 2021 at the Strathmore Swimming Pool. The Olympic duo joined the Silver Sharks to give instruction, demonstrations and photo ops with some of their medals.

Photo Courtesy of Josh Mitchell

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Aheer talks year-in-conclusion

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism initiative Reporter

As 2021 drew to a conclusion, Chestermere-Strathmore MLA Leela Aheer commended Albertans for their continued resilience, patience and strength over the course of the year.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, she acknowledged that Albertans are finding ways to make the best of the situation and are continuing to aid each other.

“I think that this year has shown a tremendous amount of resilience and strength from the people of Alberta. I think that all of our hearts and minds and who we are as human beings have been put to the test,” said Aheer. “Despite that, we’ve seen tremendous acts of kindness and immense joy that have come from people and their ability to help in the worst of circumstances.”

Aheer said she believes that the highlights from 2021 occurred as a result of tragedy, such that despite being pushed to their limits, Albertans displayed admirable resilience and strength, both socially and economically.

According to Aheer, 2021 saw an increase in approximately 110,000 jobs over the previous year – an indication that the economy is beginning to recover.

“We’re seeing that small businesses opened in the middle of the pandemic and supported each other, and we were able to provide loans and dollars and guarantees to help through that,” said Aheer who also commended businesses, corporations and public sector organizations for their work in collaboration with the province to find solutions to

ongoing problems and to address concerns.

“As a result of that, you see technology taking a front and center, ability to be able to step in to print provide services and needs to people that we weren’t able to come up with before.”

Among services seeing a push for expedition, is the establishment of more high-speed internet and broadband services in rural Alberta.

Inversely, the province was not without its share of challenges that continue to impact the daily lives of Albertans. Aheer specifically regarded a shortage of labour within the agriculture discipline.

“We have a huge labour shortage right now ... it’s such a big labour shortage that it is actually at odds with the economy and the growth of the economy right now,” said Aheer.

Another topic which Aheer prioritized to address, was ongoing mental health challenges for Albertans and how programs have been established or are in the works for those who may have otherwise lacked access to such services.

She added that farmers have been reaching out to the province more for mental health support, noticeably more than prior to the start of the pandemic.

“The crisis in COVID-19 forced us to

take a look at ourselves and find out where we needed to help people. That is a tremendous change and shift in the culture of how we look at mental health and remove the stigma to have a conversation to create healthier communities,” said Aheer. “There’s a lot of trust factors that need to be reignited between people in government. Partly, that has to do with COVID-19, but that also partly has to do with our ability to communicate what it is that we’re trying to accomplish as a government.”

Aheer cited that she herself has been making an active effort to maintain clear an open communication with her constituents as much as she is able, including making herself available as often as possible to meet in her constituency office.

For those who would lend an ear, she added, “To every Albertan who is listening, our successes are completely grounded in the human resource that we have in Alberta and in her people – that is always going to be what makes us successful.”

Being on the topic of communication, Aheer added that provincial budget consultations are open and feedback will be accepted online until Jan. 15. The provincial government is seeking input from as many people as possible on the subject.



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Notice of Application Confined Feeding Operation

John Schooten and Sons Custom Feedyards has filed Application LA21053 with the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) to obtain an approval to expand an existing confined feeding operation (CFO) on the S½ 8-21-24 W4M and the N½ 5-21-24 W4M in Vulcan County, Alberta. The application is to increase beef finisher numbers from 50,000 to 75,000, and to construct 80 pens (80 m x 65 m each), and a catch basin (200 m x 90 m x 3 m).

The NRCB will also determine the grandfathered status of the CFO. The NRCB invites you to provide input on the CFO’s livestock type, livestock capacity, and facilities as they existed on or around January 1, 2002. John Schooten and Sons Custom Feedyards has stated that its grandfathered livestock capacity is 50,000 beef finishers.

The NRCB will also determine the grandfathered status of the CFO. The NRCB invites you to provide input on the CFO’s livestock type, livestock capacity, and facilities as they existed on or around January 1, 2002. John Schooten and Sons Custom Feedyards has stated that its grandfathered livestock capacity is 50,000 beef finishers.

Filing a Statement

Any person who is directly affected by the application and the determination of grandfathered status may submit a statement to the NRCB. The statement must be received by the NRCB on or before February 4, 2022. Submissions must be made to the NRCB email address provided below. A copy of the response will be sent to the applicant for review and comment. Statements submitted regarding the application are public records and are non-confidential.

Your statement should include your name, the legal land description of your residence or landholdings, mailing address, phone number, email address, and a detailed summary that describes how you would be directly affected by this application. For further information please refer to the fact sheet “The Permitting Process for Confined Feeding Operations in Alberta” at www.nrcb.ca (under Confined Feeding Operations / Notice of Applications). You may also file an application for directly affected party status at this time. Additional information related to directly affected party status is available on the NRCB website.

Failure to submit a statement may affect your rights to apply for an NRCB review.

Viewing the Application


A complete copy of the application and supporting documents submitted by the applicant under the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* may be viewed **only** on the NRCB website at www.nrcb.ca (under Confined Feeding Operations / Public Notice of Applications) until Lethbridge. Until further notice, the application will **not** be available for in-person viewing as the Lethbridge office of the NRCB is closed to the public due to COVID-19. If you require further information, please contact the approval officer listed below.

Carina Weisbach, Approval Officer
carina.weisbach@nrcb.ca
T: 403-381-5422

The closing date for submissions:
February 4, 2022

Dated at Lethbridge AB, on January 5, 2022

www.nrcb.ca



Business Excellence Awards return

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Wheatland Chamber of Commerce (SWCC) is hosting the annual Business Excellence Awards at the end of the month and is excited to once again be hosting the event in person.

Though the last iteration of the annual awards ceremony was never fully canceled due to concerns surrounding COVID-19, it was moved to an online format to meet provincial health restrictions at the time.

Acting chair of the SWCC, Hayley Poirier, said the event is an important one to hold as it recognizes businesses and entrepreneurs who set a standard of excellence in the local community.

"It has been an interesting year ... we took on the Business Excellence Awards as something that we felt was important to all of our local businesses and we continue to believe that celebrating, especially in challenging times that we're in ... it's important," said Poirier. "What we did last year is ... we followed the lead of going virtual and we did a zoom presentation of the Business Excellence Awards. Everything was, for the most part, pre-recorded

and the live components were two co-hosts on site being filmed."

The awards will be hosted live and in person this year with 50 per cent occupancy at the Muirfield Golf Course. For those who will not, or are unable to attend in person, the event will be streamed live over Zoom.

Poirier added there's an element to hosting a live award in person that simply is not felt when everyone is isolated behind their computer screens.

"The hope is that we'll be able to have 50 people in the room and those people will be the presenters of the awards and the winners. The winners will each be able to come on to the stage and accept their award," said Poirier. "It does add a level of intimacy ... and to be able to recognize people in person - we all miss that. We are really excited to be able to create an atmosphere that will be one of a lot of energy and celebration."

The Business Excellence Awards will be operating under Alberta's restriction exemption program and will require presentation of a vaccination record QR code, as well as ID at the door.

As of Dec. 30, 2021, Poirier said there had been 140 nominations across the 13 award categories. Nominations for

businesses or individuals were left up to the public to nominate and those who were asked to judge the event were selected as non-biased parties.

"We didn't put criteria on the nomination other than they have been proven to be in business for more than two years and they are a business in good standing," added Poirier.

Though it is possible for a business or individual to be awarded more than one commendation, it is uncommon. According to Poirier, not a single nominee has yet to walk away with more than two awards on a given year.

"It's ramping up, for sure. There's always this little bubble of excitement in January, which was one of the reasons why we picked January. Everybody needs something to be able to look forward to and celebrate," said Poirier. "It becomes a beacon of what you're trying to strive for. When people see an award that says business excellence ... I believe that customers and clients really look at that and go, 'hey, that's excellent.' And there's a little bit of pride for that business that won it."

The award ceremony will be hosted on Jan. 28, starting at 6:15 p.m. Tickets are available to purchase online through Eventbrite.

RCMP warns buy-and-sell users of ongoing fraud

ALBERTA RCMP

The Alberta RCMP Federal Serious and Organized Crime Unit warns online buy-and-sell users of an ongoing payment scam in which sellers using platforms like Kijiji or Facebook Marketplace are unknowingly receiving electronic money requests rather than electronic money transfers. As a result, sellers are being cheated out of their money instead of receiving payment for their listed items.

Scammers will show interest in a listed item on a buy-and-sell platform, contacting the seller to coordinate pay-

ment. They then ask to send an online money transfer as a deposit to hold an item. In some cases, the scammer will even explain to the seller that the payment will be coming from a special company account, laying cover for why the supposed e-transfer will be received in a different language. A money request instead of a transfer is then sent in French to the seller. The victim, unable to translate the request or decipher the scam, accepts the transaction and the funds are then pulled from their account.

There has been no specific trend in the type of listings

or sellers being targeted by this scam. The Alberta RCMP cautions individuals listing items online to avoid interactions with potential buyers that involve money transfers in French or other languages they are unable to translate.

"Online scams such as these are becoming more and more common. It is important that individuals using buy-and-sell platforms do their due diligence to ensure transactions are legitimate," said Cpl. Sean Milne, Alberta RCMP, Federal Serious and Organized Crime.

"We encourage Albertans to be cautious of these types of fraud trends and to question online interactions that seem unusual or out of the ordinary."

If you believe yourself to be a victim of this type of fraud, please report it to your local law enforcement and to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre online at www.anti-fraudcentre.ca, or by calling 1-888-495-8501. For more fraud prevention information, follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta and Twitter @RCMPAlberta.

CRIME STOPPERS

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TEXT tttTIPS to 274637
anonymous - cash rewards

Strathmore RCMP are reminding residents to Lock-It or Lost-It following several thefts from vehicles.

- Locking your vehicle doors is a quick and simple way to help prevent this crime.
- Hide loose change inside the vehicle where it can't easily be seen and take all items of any value with you when leaving your car.
- Never leave your vehicle running unattended.

Strathmore RCMP ask residents to help do their part by ensuring their property is properly locked.

1-800-222-TIPS
(1-800-222-8477)

Wheatland LOCK

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120 - 2nd Avenue, Strathmore

YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE
Gord Morck Pharmacist
Capsule Comments

When is the best time to weigh yourself? There have actually been studies on just that. In the morning before breakfast is best because the body has had the overnight hours to digest all the food and drink consumed the day before. Also the studies showed that weighing yourself daily will result in more consistent weight-loss.

From the "Canadian Statistics Without Comment Department":
One thousand Canadians are turning 65 every day.

Anosmia, a post-Covid symptom that results in a distortion in the sense of smell. A distortion in the sense of taste can occur concurrently. Studies have shown that about half those contracting COVID will lose their sense of smell. The good news is that 90% will notice a substantial improvement within 4-6 weeks.

Baby Aspirin® (ASA) is often touted as a miracle drug to prevent heart attacks. And it does help those who have already had one heart attack from getting a second one. The drug is also used in those with angina or who have had an arterial stent implant. But it is not recommended for those who have never had a heart attack. The risk of internal bleeding outweighs any benefit. Check with your doctor if you are concerned.

It's not too late to get your flu shot. And if you haven't had your COVID shot yet, it's OK to get both shots at the same time. Start the New Year out right by being fully vaccinated.

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Sunday, January 16
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Saturday, January 22
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Saturday, February 5
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Badlands Search and Rescue seeking new recruits

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism initiative Reporter

As the Badlands Search and Rescue organization prepares for its 10th year of operation, the team is once again organizing recruitment sessions on Jan. 7 and 15.

President and Founder of the organization, Scott Campbell, said it's the first proper recruiting session the team has been able to host in a few years, as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

"What we will be doing is, at the Strathmore Civic Centre we will be holding kind of an open house recruiting session," said Campbell.

"Doors will be opened at about 7 p.m. and we will have our command post there for people to walk through, look at some of our gear ... and at 7:30 p.m. we'll start the recruiting session."

Campbell said the team will be talking about the organization, who they are, why they exist, requirements for membership, the process of training, expectations and take questions. The session will aim to wrap up at 8:30 p.m. on the respective days.

The recruiting event will be participating in the Restriction Exemption Program, which will require proof of vaccination QR code, or a negative COVID-19 test from the last 72 hours, as well as ID.

He added though the organization is operated on a volunteer basis and staff will inevitably come

and go, they are looking to expand their numbers and maintain their positive impact for the local region.

"We're not the busiest organization, but we do get called three or four times per year to assist with missing persons searches, as well as helping RCMP and other police agencies with finding evidence," said Campbell.

"The impact is huge because it's really going to energize our training sessions. Just having an influx of new people is going to provide us with better coverage, because the fewer people we have, the less available we are, 24/7."

Expanding their membership will increase the availability of Badlands Search and Rescue personnel and increase their public presence. Campbell explained an important role volunteers serve is to aid with high risk and historical searches over significant areas.

"We help out the Strathmore (RCMP) detachment, Chestermere, Gleichen, Hanna, Bassano, Beiseker and Drumheller detachments ... that we are primarily responsible for. We also assist other teams in our region that cover

a large area," said Campbell.

Badlands Search and Rescue typically responds to three or four calls per year, explained Campbell. Any Volunteers who are interested, by provincial mandate, must be at least 18 years of age and must pass a criminal record and vulnerable sector check with the police.

Recruitment Sessions

January 7 & January 15

Strathmore Civic Centre

Bringing in the New Year!

Despite not being a normal New Year celebration because of the COVID-19 restrictions in Alberta, Mike's Bar and Grill in Strathmore allowed patrons to listen to live music on Dec. 31. The band, Maximum Capacity, provided some tunes while patrons had food and beverages to celebrate the New Year, unfortunately without dancing, party favours or mingling, because of the restrictions.

Joe Lepage Photo

Upcoming Meetings

Council and committee meetings will now be open to the public and via teleconference. For public hearings it is strongly encouraged that you attend in person.

January 11: Council Meeting

January 12: Agricultural Service Board

January 18: Municipal Planning Commission

To join the call, dial 403-917-1764 and enter the PIN 47001 when prompted. Agenda packages can be found on our website.

WHEATLAND COUNTY INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR 2022 COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT FUNDING

Wheatland County recognizes that its residents utilize various recreational, cultural and other community enhancement facilities and resources and has established the Community Enhancement Fund to provide financial support for such venues and activities.

The Community Enhancement Fund provides grant funding from Wheatland County to enhance, promote, and support groups and organizations that bring a broad range of enjoyment, benefit, beautification, recreation, entertainment, participation, and enhancement projects to Wheatland County. The program is intended to invest taxpayer dollars annually to support recreational, cultural and other community activities, facilities, and resources that are utilized by Wheatland County residents.

How to Apply:

Applications and Guidelines for the Community Enhancement Fund are available at the Wheatland County Office and on the County website: www.wheatlandcounty.ca/ceb

Deadline:

Applications must be post marked on or before January 31, 2022.

Please note that eligibility for 2022 funding is dependent on filing all previous funding reports with Wheatland County by January 31, 2022.

For more information please contact Jessica Salmon at 403-361-2021 or jessica.salmon@wheatlandcounty.ca

Mailing Address Change

Effective April 19, 2021, Wheatland County's new mailing address is:

242006 Range Road 243
Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4

You may continue to see our old address as we phase it out in the coming months, however, should you need to mail us anything, please be sure to use our new address as mentioned above.



Address: 242006 Range Rd 243, Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4
Phone: 403-934-3321 www.wheatlandcounty.ca @wheatlandcounty
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



COVID-19

HELP SLOW THE SPREAD

Here's how you can help slow the spread of COVID-19:

- Avoid touching your face
- Self isolate if feeling sick
- Properly wash hands often
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Practice physical distancing
- Disinfect frequently touched items and surfaces

Latest updates at alberta.ca/COVID19

Chamber of Commerce reflects on 2021

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism initiative Reporter

With 2021 having come to a conclusion, Strathmore Wheatland Chamber of Commerce (SWCC) Chair, Hayley Poirier reflects on the events of the year.

The top of the list, she said thinking back to last January, was the 2021 annual Business Excellence Awards (BEA).

"The SWCC continued the tradition of the BEAs. We decided it was too important and that everyone needed a reason to celebrate, so we had our first ever virtual awards," said Poirier.

"It was a huge success. We had Drew Gregory perform live, Natalie Johnstone from 104.5 More Country co-hosted with Shawn Kisling and we handed out 13 awards virtually to the business community."

The highlight of the awards, however, came as an impromptu challenge for attending businesses to make donations to the not-for-profit business of the year. This prompted \$4,500 to be raised for the Happy Cat Sanctuary.

Poirier added that with concerns regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic still posing challenges, the SWCC had to get creative to continue helping local businesses.

"We had weekly check-ins with business owners either in person or on the phone or zoom. Many businesses were still closed or restricted in 2021 and connection became vital," said Poirier.

During the SWCC's AGM last April, seven returning directors and five new faces were voted in to sit on the board.

In the second quarter of 2021, Poirier said the SWCC adopted a student liaison program, with a focus being to in-

volve interested students in the local business community.

Those students who got involved were invited to monthly board meetings and were encouraged to participate in Chamber tasks, as well as to join committees.

"Cody Holdaway was our first student liaison who works tirelessly to improve our website and social media," said Poirier.

"Then later in 2021, we decided to have another student join us. Molly Jones has been another strong addition to our team."

The former SWCC executive director, Shawn Kisling, stepped down from his position mid-year for what Poirier explained were personal reasons. Following their hiring process, the SWCC chose Scott Silva to take over the position in the third quarter.

According to Poirier, the SWCC spent the fourth quarter working with municipalities on the local municipal elections. The team was involved in setting up and organizing three panel discussions with the candidates.

"We then finished up the year with two education forums on mental health," said Poirier. "The first one was with Tammy and Todd Williams of TWilliams Financial, discussing the benefits of having employee benefits."

Closing out the year, Poirier added, the last SWCC board session saw Bob Wilkie of 'I got Mind' share a story of his mental health, as well as tools and ideas for practicing everyday awareness.

Poirier explained with the team jumping right in to start 2022 off on a high note, the SWCC is excited for the annual return of the BEAs once again, scheduled for the end of the month.

Club hosts fun day

ALANNA NEAL
Wheatland District 4-H Junior Reporter

Our first meeting was in October and we elected a new Junior Council Executive; President - Jason, Vice President - Marika, District Reporter - Alanna.

The district hosted a fun day on Dec. 19 at Joyland Theatre in Strathmore. We watched Elf! 4-H members received free treats and really enjoyed the movie with their fellow 4-H members, family and friends.

A skating day is being planned for January in Standard in their outdoor skating rink with hot chocolate and a bonfire. Watch for details to come through your clubs. Make sure to dress warm!

District Curling will be Feb. 24 in Strathmore. This event is fun for everyone, so be sure to sign up.

The next Junior Council meeting will be Jan. 20.

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TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

Obituary



BROWN, Beverley Anne

Our beloved mother, Beverley Anne Brown, age 88, of Strathmore passed away peacefully in her sleep on Dec 30th, 2021. She loved life, her friends and family, shopping, angels, cruising and travel. She was always the life of the party, always the social butterfly up until Nov 2018 when she had a severe stroke. Life was never the same after that for Mom. She is at peace now.

Beverley was born on Oct 14, 1933 in Climax, Saskatchewan and grew up on a farm about 10 miles SE of Orkney where she lived until 1941 when they moved to Fort William, Ontario. They spent the war years there with her dad working for Canada Car building airplanes and her mom as a driver for the Elementary Flying Training School. In 1946 they returned to Orkney and bought a general store. After her brother passed away in 1948, they sold up and moved to Vancouver Island living in both Lantzville and Nanaimo. Beverley attended St Ann's Convent in Nanaimo where she did Gr 9, 10 & 11 and completed a Business Course. In 1952 she joined the Royal Canadian Air Force becoming a Supply Technician. She had a couple of short postings before ending up in Comox, BC where she met and married LAC Bill Brown. The RCAF frowned upon marriage within the ranks in those days and of course promptly posted Bill to North Luffenham in England and Bev to Whitehorse in the Yukon. She of course resigned and followed Bill to England where their daughter Debbie was born in 1955. Two years later upon return to Canada, Darrell was born in Nanaimo.

In 1959 they were posted to Falconbridge, Ontario. It was here in the humid climate that Bev developed Rheumatoid Arthritis which has plagued her entire life. A compassionate posting in 1965 to Alberta helped with this and luckily with subsequent postings in Penhold, Calgary and Cold Lake she was able to remain in Alberta. She was divorced in 1976 and moved to Calgary to be with her children while Bill moved to Montreal, then later to Barrie, Ontario where he remains today.

In 1979 Bev met Jim McEwan, a widower with two sons. They dated then moved in and remained together until Jim passed away in 2011 living first in Forest Lawn then moving into Ranchwood Estates in Strathmore. They were both involved in the Strathmore Legion where Bev was a long-standing member of the darts team achieving a 180-club award. She loved her

life in Strathmore getting involved in many activities and making many friends.

Although she worked in the Mess Halls on all the air-bases, her first long term job was with the Alberta Motor Association. She started with them in 1976 when she divorced and moved to Calgary, working primarily in the travel department. She was there 22 years, only leaving on her retirement in 1998. She loved her work, her workmates and working with the public. She was always very outgoing and would go the extra mile for people. This job also sparked her interest in one of her favourite things - travel!! And more specifically - cruising. She saw most of the islands in the Caribbean over the years and travelled through the Panama Canal. When her daughter settled in Australia in 1986 this gave her another excuse to travel, and she spent multiple extended vacations getting to know her 'Down Under' grandchildren. She loved it there making her last trip in 2013.

She loved her grandchildren more than anything, all 6 of them. Adam and Kayt in Australia (Debbie's children), Keriann and Brandon in Airdrie (Darrell's children) and Sarah and Crystal (Jim's son Brian's children). She wanted to be part of everything they did and lived for them. It was such a shame that her stroke and Covid prevented her from meeting her great-grandchildren. Beverley is survived by her daughter Debbie (Tony) Scott, her son Darrell (Mardel) Brown; 2 stepsons - Brian (Irene) and Donald McEwan; 4 grandchildren - Adam and Kayt Scott, Keriann and Brandon Brown; 2 step grandchildren - Crystal and Sarah McEwan and 3 great grandchildren - Audrey and Emma Papp; and Ava McEwan; along with many loving friends and extended family.

She was predeceased by her parents Susan Wickhorst (1977), her father Orlin Lloyd (1993), her brother Robert (Bobby) Lloyd (1948) and her partner James McEwan (2011).

There will be no Funeral Service at this time for Beverley. A Celebration of Life will be held at a future date. If you would like to receive notification of the celebration of Bev's life, please email deb.scott18@gmail.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be made directly to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Alberta, 200, 119 - 14th Street N.W., Calgary, AB T2N 1Z6 Telephone: (403) 264-5549, www.heartandstroke.ca.

To leave a memory or condolence for the family, please click on the "Upload Your Memory" box at the bottom of Beverley's online obituary located at www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca .

Wheatland Funeral Home
Strathmore, AB 403-934-4404

Obituary



GODSMAN, John David Charles

John leaves behind Anne, his wife of 63 years; son Iain (Joanne); two wonderful grandchildren, Arizona and

Hunter; brother Doug (Phylis); and many cousins, nephews, and nieces in Canada, U.S., Scotland, and England.

John was born in Scotland in 1936 and lived there until he was 18, when he joined the Royal Air and trained as an air traffic controller. He served in several areas including Germany, England, and Edinburgh where he met Anne in 1957. They were married in 1959 and so started a life of travels. Their only son Iain was born in Gibraltar in 1964. When we returned to Britain, John's twelve-year term in the RAE was complete and there was not much work in air traffic control. In 1967, we boarded the Queen Mary on her last passenger voyage and arrived in New York. From there, we took a bus to Toronto for a few days and then it was on to a train bound for Vancouver. What a huge country this is after having lived in Britain for most of our lives! After five years, we moved to Calgary where we stayed until retiring to Strathmore in 2000. Retirement for John meant traveling and camping in the RV all over Canada and the U.S.

We found square dancing in 1986 and loved it; attending dances and conventions in Canada and the U.S. and being part of the organizing committee for a large event in Calgary in 2004, with dancers from all over the world in attendance. The highlight was dancing in the opening ceremonies of the 1988 Olympics in Calgary.

John loved meeting and talking to people and hearing their stories, so Remembering Our Roots started. First as articles in the Strathmore Times and then as compilations of the articles into four books. Thank you to all the people who were interviewed, you made John very happy.

John's health deteriorated and we gave up camping in 2019, then had to give up dancing. Our heartfelt thanks to those who were, and still are, our good friends.

Thanks also to Dr. Piesas, Dr. Sader, and the staff at Strathmore Hospital who looked after John during the last week of his long, adventuresome, life.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Announcements will be in the Strathmore Times.

To send condolences, please visit John's obituary at www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca.

Wheatland Funeral Home
Strathmore, AB 403-934-4404

Obituary



WUTZKE, Fred 1932 - 2021

It is with immense sadness that we share the loss of our dear husband, father and opa, Fred. He was an

amazing man who had endured many hardships to be welcomed to this country he loved.

Fred immigrated to Canada from Germany with his parents and siblings in 1951. They worked on sugar beet farms in southern Alberta before moving to Calgary. It is where he met the love of his life, Maria.

Fred was a very resourceful and enterprising person. He worked for Union Packing in Calgary while building a house for Maria and himself, and their growing family. In 1964 the family moved to Carseland to run a dairy farm. He also did custom haying with the help of their 3 boys. He was a member of the Carseland Lions club for 40 plus years where he was involved in many community projects. Fred and Maria made many lifelong friends in Carseland. They eventually moved to Strathmore after they sold the dairy farm. Fred and Maria built and ran the "W" carwash building in Strathmore. Fred also loved to design homes and he built the "Rocky Place" on 817 where they lived for many years.

Family and friends are important to Fred and Maria, and they enjoyed hosting many parties and growing large gardens to share with their families. In later years they spent the winters in Arizona and enjoyed many "happy hours" with their close group of friends. They enjoyed travelling, making several trips back to Germany to visit relatives and loved to spend a few weeks each year in Mazatlán.

Fred was predeceased by his son Gordon in 2018. He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Maria, his sons Jeff (Judy) and David (Christa) and by his beloved grandsons Josh and Rory.

There will be no funeral service at this time. In lieu of flowers, donations in Fred's name may be made to the Wheatland & Area Hospice Society, P.O. Box 2154 Strathmore, Alberta T1P 1K2 or online @ www.wheatlandhospice.ca/donate.

To send condolences, please visit Fred's obituary at www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca.

Wheatland Funeral Home
Strathmore, AB 403-934-4404

www.StrathmoreTimes.com

Obituary



LAVOIE, Marty Robin David
August 3, 1973 - December 22, 2021

It is with profound sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Marty on December 22, 2021, at the age of 48, in Calgary, AB, after a brief battle with cancer.

Marty was born in a farmhouse on his parent's property in St. Francis Xavier, MB in August 1973, thus entering the world with the same exuberance that he showed throughout his whole life. Growing up on a farm, near a small town, Marty was surrounded by animals, outdoors and adventure, which is where his love for hunting, getting dirty and having fun began. Marty was the middle child of Ernest and Elaine, growing up with his older brother Mark and his younger brother Paul. The Lavoie family was well known in the area, with many aunts, uncles and cousins that spent so much time together. Family was an important part of Marty's life, and as time went on, he became an amazing uncle to his nieces and nephews.

Marty discovered his passion for truck driving and risky professions early on and adapted that love into a career that spanned decades. Marty did everything from heavy equipment operation, working on the Manitoba Floodway, being on the ice-breaker crew in Manitoba, driving the Ice Roads, being a volunteer firefighter and being the go-to guy for the trucking companies that he worked for over the years. Marty spent the last 10 years with Rosenau Transport, forging many strong friendships that carried on even after he left to take care of his health.

In 2006, Marty moved from Manitoba to Alberta where a new chapter of his life began. It was in Calgary, AB that he met his future wife, Alanna and, in Marty's words, "went from a bachelor to a father of two overnight", when he became an incredible bonus dad to James and Dylan. Over the next few years, Marty and Alanna had two more children, John and Faith, making them a family of six. Marty was an amazing dad to all of the kids, always being involved in school, cubs, soccer, football, ringette and whatever else the kids had going on. Despite Marty being away from home five to six days per week for work, the weekends were always about spending time together; going on adventures with his family, impromptu road trips to Manitoba, a weekend away camping or day trips to Calaway Park or the zoo. While on the road, Marty would always keep in contact with home, his brothers, aunts and uncles, and friends, that were scattered in various provinces, making phone calls throughout the days and nights, so that even when he was away, there was still a closeness between him and those he loved.

Marty's biggest wish was to get married to his long-time partner and on December 17, 2021, that wish came true. This was Marty's last wish and on that day, he was surrounded by so much love and light, the same love and light that he always brought to those around him, that there was not a dry eye in the chapel.

Marty is survived by his wife, Alanna, sons James, Dylan and John and daughter Faith; older brother Mark (Laura) of Steinbach, MB and children Andrea, Michael and Makenzie; his younger brother Paul (Jennifer) of Steinbach, MB and children Chantelle and Kai; mother in law Patricia Malthouse; his brother in law Bradley (Julia) Krasowski and son Jayden, sister in law Stephanie Sills and children Rylan and Aven, brother in law Steven (Vanessa) Malthouse and son Damian, sister in law Larissa Pendlebury; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Marty is predeceased by his father Ernest Lavoie and mother Elaine Falls, along with other extended members of his family.

A private funeral service was held Friday December 31, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

To send condolences or watch the funeral service video, please visit Marty's obituary at www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca

Wheatland Funeral Home
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3	8	7	5	2	4	1	6	9

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WHEATLAND & ADJACENT DISTRICTS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, January 17, 2022
7pm
Wheatland County Administration Building

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Strathmore Station Restaurant & Pub
380 Ridge Road
Strathmore AB

Is Hiring:

1 Permanent, Full Time

Cook

\$16 Hourly, for 40 Hours per week, start ASAP

Minimum 2-3 years Experience

Specific Skills:

Prep and cook full course meals and individual dishes. Ensure quality of food and determine size of food proportions, plan menus, food costs, monitor and order supplies. Inspect and clean kitchen and food service areas. Adhere to policies and procedures in preparation, cooking and safe handling of food and train and supervise staff in same. Work with specialized cooking equipment (deep fryer, etc.) and work with minimal supervision. Organized job task planning abilities, flexibility, reliability, initiative, significant use of memory, and paying attention to details is also required skills. Also, must have the ability to work well with others in a fast-paced environment while under pressure. Standing and/or walking for extended periods, some lifting. Must Speak, Read, Write fluent English

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HELP WANTED



Strathmore Station Restaurant & Pub
380 Ridge Road
Strathmore AB
Is Hiring:
1 Permanent, Full Time

Food Service Supervisor

\$17.25 Hourly, for 40.00 Hours per week, start ASAP
Experience: of 1 to 2 years required

Skills: Ability to supervise and co-ordinate the activities of 5-10 kitchen and food service helpers and food service servers while ensuring great food service and quality control of foods. Culinary knowledge required. Will be responsible to train staff in job duties, sanitation, and safety procedures and ensure that those duties and procedures are followed. Must possess great oral communication, excellent problem solving skills, and organized job task planning abilities. Candidate to have excellent client focus attitude and address customer concerns and complaints. Required to maintain records for stock, repairs, sales, wastage, and some scheduling. Candidate to have the ability to work well with others in a fast-paced environment while under pressure.

Standing and/or walking for extended periods.
Speak, Read, Write English

How to Apply:

By mail, in person between 11:00 and 17:00, or email: strathmorestationjobs@gmail.com



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- Prepare Year End Financials for company

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- A high degree of self-awareness, humility, compassion, integrity and honesty
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Apply by mail or email only.

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**Strathmore Station
Restaurant & Pub**
380 Ridge Road
Strathmore AB
Is Hiring:

1 Permanent, Full Time

Restaurant Assistant Manager

\$20.19/hour, 35 hours per week, start ASAP
Minimum Experience: 2-3 years

Under the guidance of the General Manager, this position is responsible in ensuring all aspects of the restaurant's operations run smoothly and according to the policies, procedures and goals of the company and government employment standards. The Manager will support the role of General Manager to increase long term profitability through continuous improvement of team member morale, guest satisfaction and excellence in operations execution. You must provide the highest level of service and care to our guests and to your crew members

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Must be customer service oriented and be able to work under pressure in a fast-paced environment while paying attention to detail. Standing and/or walking for extended periods. Must speak, read, write English fluently.

Apply to Peter: In Person between 11:00 and 17:00
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Upcoming Council Meetings

January 12, 2022 | 6pm Regular Council Meeting
January 19, 2022 | 6pm Regular Council Meeting
January 26, 2022 | 6pm Committee of the Whole

Watch the live stream at [Strathmore.ca/youtube](https://www.strathmore.ca/youtube)



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Previous Years

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This Year

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Average amount of litter used in winter

Previous Years

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kgs per week

This Year

180

kgs per week

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Seasonal Green Cart Schedule

Seasonal curbside organic collection is biweekly from November 1 to April 30, and weekly from May 1 to October 31.

Find your specific collection dates at [Strathmore.ca/GreenCart](https://www.strathmore.ca/GreenCart)

